

BISHOP AUCKLAND
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

T. A. MCCULLAGH,

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., ETC.

FOR THE YEAR 1921

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TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

During 1921 the number of deaths in the District, excluding those not belonging to the District which occurred in Public Institutions, and including residents who died outside the District, was 208. The number of Births was 396. Estimating the population at 14,390, the Death-Rate for the year is 14.4 and the Birth-Rate 27 per 1,000. Seventeen of the births were illegitimate. Forty-two infants under one year of age died, three of whom were illegitimate. The Infant mortality rate is 106.

DEATHS FROM ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

Whooping Cough ...	5
Influenza ...	6
Diarrhoea ...	9

There were no deaths from Enteric Fever, Small-Pox, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Meningitis, and one from

Encephalitis Lethargica or Sleeping Sickness, and one from Puerperal Sepsis. The Zymotic Death-Rate is 1·3.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The Notification of Infectious Diseases numbered 60, and were as follows :—

Diphtheria	...	16
Scarlet Fever	...	33
Encephalitis Lethargica		4
2 of which were in the Workhouse		
Erysipelas	...	3
Enteric	...	4
2 of which were in the same house in Oaklea Terrace.		

Twenty-five patients were treated in the Isolation Hospital.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Nineteen cases of Tuberculosis died during the year. The same number as in 1920. The Death-Rate is 1·3

The Dispensary which is worked by the County Council Staff is largely attended.

None of the Scarlet Fever, Enteric, or Diphtheria cases were fatal. The fatal case of Encephalitis Lethargica did not belong to our District, but was removed from Stanley to the Workhouse Infirmary. I could find no cause, or source of infection, for the three cases in the Town. Two of the Enteric patients were in the same house in Oaklea Terrace, and there were some local insanitary conditions which

were attended to. All the premises where infectious diseases occurred were examined and disinfected.

WATER SUPPLY.

Unlike most Water supplies ours was constant during the prolonged drought. When this was at its worst some evidence of pollution appeared in the periodical analysis. Expert advice was taken and a Chlorine disinfecting plant was installed. This has been most successful, and the later analyses show that the water is pure and quite fit for dietetic purposes. The question of more storage and an extra filter bed is still under consideration.

ASHPITS, PRIVIES, BINS, &c.

The work of emptying Bins, Ashpits, and Privies is now being carried out satisfactorily. Complaints of delay were very frequent in the early part of the year, but none have been made to me for some months. The scavenging is also satisfactory. There are 2,056 Water Closets, 748 Ash Closets, and still 516 of the objectionable Ashpit Privies.

SCHOOLS.

The Schools are in good Sanitary Condition.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Clinic, which is presided over by Dr. Penfold is much appreciated. The attendances have been very large. Cases that require Surgical treatment, and are unsuitable for home treatment, are sent to Newcastle-on-Tyne.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

The Health Visitors work under the County Council. The Inspector of Nuisances consults almost daily with the Medical Officer of Health.

Twenty-five patients were treated at the Isolation Hospital, including two very bad cases of Sleeping Sickness, without death. I was very pleased with the skill and attention of the Matron and Nurse.

MILK AND COW SHEDS.

The Milk supply is good. It chiefly comes from the Rural District, but the Cowsheds in the Urban Area are all in good condition and clean.

Fourteen registered Milk shops are clean

OTHER FOODS.

The only seizure of unwholesome food during the year was a quantity of potatoes.

BAKE HOUSES

All have been inspected and found in good condition.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are 13 Slaughter Houses in the Urban District. All these have been inspected periodically, and found to be well kept and clean, and regularly lime-washed. There is no Public Abattoir.

LODGING HOUSES.

These Houses have been regularly inspected, and where defects have been found they have been remedied.

PLACES OF AMUSEMENT.

All have been inspected regularly. The Sanitary arrangements are satisfactory.

HOUSING.

Only 2 New Houses have been erected and occupied during the year. Seven have been demolished :—2. for sanitary reasons, and the others for building purposes. There is still some over crowding. Many of the houses which have been scheduled as insanitary should be closed or pulled down as soon as there is other accommodation for the inmates.

The Tables of Mortality and of work done are appended.

TABLE I

TABLE II

TABLE III

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T. A McCULLAGH, M.O.H.

April, 1922.

TABLE I.

Causes of Death in Bishop Auckland Urban District,
1921.

CAUSES OF DEATH			Males	Females
All Causes (civilians only)	..		109	99
1 Enteric Fever	..	..	..	..
2 Small-pox	..	..	..	..
3 Measles	..	..	..	..
4 Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..
5 Whooping Cough	..	..	1	4
6 Diphtheria and Croup	..	..	..	..
7 Influenza	..	..	1	5
8 Encephalitis lethargica	..	..	1	..
9 Meningococcal meningitis	..	..	..	..
10 Tuberculosis of respiratory system	..	..	13	6
11 Other tuberculous diseases	..	..	3	2
12 Cancer, malignant disease	..	..	1	13
13 Rheumatic fever	..	..	..	1
14 Diabetes	..	..	1	..
15 Cerebral hæmorrhage &c.	..	..	8	2
16 Heart disease	..	..	10	8
17 Arterio-sclerosis	..	..	3	5
18 Bronchitis	..	..	5	11
19 Pneumonia (all forms)	..	..	11	7
20 Other respiratory diseases	..	..	..	..
21 Ulcer of Stomach or duodenum.	..	..	..	..
22 Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	..	..	7	2
23 Appendicitis and typhlitis	..	..	..	..
24 Cirrhosis of liver	..	..	1	..
25 Acute and chronic nephritis	..	..	3	3
26 Puerperal sepsis	..	..	..	1
27 Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition.	..	..	..	1
28 Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth.	..	..	11	6
29 Suicide	..	..	2	2
30 Other deaths from violence	..	..	3	2
31 Other defined diseases	..	..	22	17
32 Causes ill-defined or unknown	..	..	2	1
Special Causes (included above)—				
Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..
Polioencephalitis	..	..	..	..
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age, total			23	19
Illegitimate	..	..	1	2
Total Births	..	..	197	199
Legitimate	..	..	186	193
Illegitimate	..	..	11	6

Population—For Births and Deaths .. 14,390

TABLE II.

Summary of Work done in the Inspector of Nuisances' Department during the Year, 1921.

BISHOP AUCKLAND URBAN DISTRICT

1—Public Health Acts.				Number of In- formal written Notices by In- spector	Number of Formal Notices by order of Auth- ority	Number of Nuis- ances abated after Notice	General Remarks
Dwelling- houses and { Foul Conditions ...	...	1				1	
Schools { Structural Defects ...	...	17		6		20	
Lodging-houses ...	...					
Dairies and Milkshops ...	...					
Cowsheds ..	...					
Bakehouses ...	...	1		1		2	
Slaughter-houses ...	...					
Ashpits and Privies ...	...	9				1	
Deposits of Refuse and Manure ...	...	1				1	
Waterclosets ..	...	12				10	
Defective Yard Paving ...	...					
House { Defective Traps ...	...					
Drainage { No Disconnection from Sewers ..	...	4				4	
{ Other Faults ..	...	21		3		24	
Water Supply ...	...					
Pigsties ...	...					
Animals Improperly kept ...	...	1				1	
Offensive Trades ...	...					
Smoke Nuisances ...	...	1		1		2	
Other Nuisances ...	...	2				2	
Defective Ashclosets ...	...	4					
No tins for dry house refuse ..	...	27		4		27	
Totals ...	...	101		15		95	

II—Water, Food, and Drugs.				Number	Remarks
Samples of Water taken for Analysis ...	...			
" " condemned as unfit for use ...	...			Cwts 4	
Seizures of Unwholesome Food ...	...			
Convictions for exposing or selling Unwholesome Food ...	...			Tons 2	POTATOES.
Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis ...	...			
" " found Adulterated ...	...			

Summary—Continued.

<i>III—Precautions against Infectious Disease.</i>	Number	Remarks.
Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed . Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease ... School do. do ... Prosecutions for exposure of infected persons or things ... Convictions for do. do. do. ...	2 64	
<i>IV—General.</i>		
Number of New Houses erected during the year ... Number of such Houses occupied during the year ... Ashpit-prives converted into Ash-closets .. do. do. Water-closets .. Ash-closets do. do. .. Total number of Water-closets in District .. do. Ash-closets do. ... do. Ash-pit privies do. ...	2 2 .. 2 1 2056 748 516	

TABLE III.

Urban Council District	...	Area in acres	691
Population (Estimated middle of 1920).	...		14 390
Births	...	...	396
Deaths	...	..	208
Birth Rate	...	...	27
Death Rate	...	..	14'4
Zymotic Death Rate	...	...	1'3
Infant Mortality Rate	...	..	106
Tuberculosis Death Rate	...	...	1'3
Number of Cases notified	...	...	60
Removed to Isolation Hospital		...	25

